

REMARKS

Status of the Claims

Upon entry of the amendment above, claims 1-15, 19-27, 29-41, 44, and 47 will be pending, claims 1, 19, 22, 29, and 32 being independent.

Summary of the Office Action

Claims 19-21 are allowed.

Claims 28-34 and 45-47 are indicated to contain allowable subject matter, but are objected to as depending upon rejected claims.

Claims 1-5, 11, 14, 15, 18, 40-42, 44, and 48-52 are rejected under 35 USC §103(a) as being unpatentable over ABEL (U.S. Patent No. 3,289,328) in view of CAPLAN (U.S. Patent No. 2,003,105).

Claims 1, 2, 10, 14-18, 40-44, and 48-52 are rejected under 35 USC §103(a) as being unpatentable over ZAINO (U.S. Patent No. 4,447,967) in view of ABEL and CAPLAN.

Claims 1-18, 40-44, and 48-52 are rejected under 35 USC §103(a) as being unpatentable over NORTON et al. (U.S. Patent No. 4,451,996) in view of ABEL and CAPLAN.

Claims 22-27 and 35-39 are rejected under 35 USC §103(a) as being unpatentable over JOHNSON (U.S. Patent No. 4,438,574).

Response to the Office Action

By means of the amendment presented above, Applicant has placed the instant application in condition for allowance by ensuring that allowable subject matter has been added to each of the independent claims which would remain upon entry of the amendment.

More specifically, although Applicant respectfully disagrees with the conclusions of obviousness in the above-mentioned grounds of rejection, Applicant has canceled independent claims 16, 17, 48, and 50, as well as the claims which had depended from those independent claims.

The remaining independent claims are 1, 19, and 22.

Independent claim 19 stands allowed.

Independent claim 1 has been amended to include the subject matter of allowable dependent claim 46 as well as the subject matter of intervening claim 18.

Independent claim 22 has been amended to include the subject matter of allowable dependent claim 28.

Allowable dependent claims 29 and 32 have been amended by being rewritten in independent form.

Lastly, the dependencies of claims which would have depended from canceled claims in view of the foregoing amendments have been appropriately changed

In view of the amendments, withdrawal of the rejections for obviousness is requested, inasmuch as such rejections are believed to have been rendered moot.

SUMMARY AND CONCLUSION

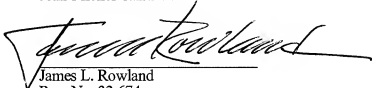
Reconsideration and allowance are requested in view of the amendment above placing the claims in condition for allowance.

No fee is believed to be due at this time. However, the Commissioner is authorized to charge any fee required for acceptance of this reply as timely and/or complete to Deposit Account No. 19-0089.

Further, although a request for extension of time is not believed necessary at this time, if an extension of time were found necessary to render this reply timely and/or complete, Applicant requests such extension of time and the Commissioner is authorized to charge any necessary extension of time fee to Deposit Account No. 19-0089.

Any comments or questions concerning this application can be directed to the undersigned at the telephone number, fax number, or email address given below.

Respectfully submitted,
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